

We Claim:

- 5 1. A personal cleansing composition comprising, based upon the total weight of the composition,:
- a) from about 4 percent to about 8.5 percent of an anionic surfactant;
- b) from about 0.1 percent to about 3 percent of a hydrophobically modified, crosslinked, anionic acrylic copolymer; and
- 10 c) from about 1 percent to about 30 percent of an amphoteric surfactant,
- wherein the weight ratio of component a) to component b) is about 3:1 to about 40:1 and wherein the composition is mild to the skin and/or eyes and is substantially free of ocular sting.
- 15 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of component a) to component b) is about 3:1 to about 20:1.
3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactant is selected
- 20 from the group consisting of alkyl sulfates, alkyl ether sulfates, sulfosuccinates, isethionates, acyl amides, alkyl ether carboxylates, alkyl phosphates, and mixtures thereof.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactant is comprised
- 25 of at least one of the following: alkyl ether sulfates or alkyl ether carboxylates.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobically modified, crosslinked, anionic acrylic copolymer is comprised of at least one acidic monomer and at least one hydrophobic ethylenically unsaturated monomer.
- 30 6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the at least one acidic monomer is an ethylenically unsaturated acid monomer capable of neutralization with a

base, and the at least one hydrophobic ethylenically unsaturated monomer is comprised of a hydrophobic carbon chain having at least three carbon atoms.

5 7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobically modified, crosslinked, anionic acrylic copolymer is a composition derived from at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer; at least one hydrophobic monomer; a hydrophobic chain transfer agent comprising alkyl mercaptans, thioesters, amino acid-mercaptan-containing compounds or peptide fragments, or
10 combinations thereof; a cross-linking agent; and, optionally, a steric stabilizer; wherein the amount of said unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer is from about 60% to about 98% by weight based upon the total weight of said unsaturated monomers and said hydrophobic monomer.

15 8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobically modified, crosslinked, anionic acrylic copolymer is a carbomer available under the tradename, "Carbopol Aqua SF-1."

20 9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the amphoteric surfactant is in an amount, based upon the total weight of the composition, from about 2 percent to about 15 percent.

25 10. The composition of claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of the anionic surfactant: amphoteric surfactant is from about 1:0.8 to about 1:4.

30 11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the amphoteric surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkylimino-dipropionates, alkylamphoglycinates (mono or di), alkylamphopropionates (mono or di), alkylamphoacetates (mono or di), N-alkyl β -aminopropionic acids, alkylpolyamino carboxylates, phosphorylated imidazolines, alkyl betaines, alkylamido betaines, alkyl sultaines, alkylamido sultaines, and mixtures thereof.

12. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol acid ethoxylates, fatty alcohol amide ethoxylates, monoglyceride ethoxylates, sorbitan ester ethoxylates, alkyl polyglycosides, and mixtures thereof.

13. The composition of claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant is a sorbitan ester ethoxylate.

14. A personal cleansing composition comprising, based upon the total weight of the composition:

- a) from about 5 percent to about 8 percent of an anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkyl ether sulfates, alkyl ether carboxylates, and mixtures thereof;
- b) from about 0.3 percent to about 2.4 percent of a hydrophobically modified, crosslinked, anionic acrylic copolymer that is derived from at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer; at least one hydrophobic monomer; a hydrophobic chain transfer agent comprising alkyl mercaptans, thioesters, amino acid-mercaptan-containing compounds or peptide fragments, or combinations thereof; a cross-linking agent; and, optionally, a steric stabilizer; wherein the amount of said unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer is from about 60% to about 98% by weight based upon the total weight of said unsaturated monomers and said hydrophobic monomer; and
- c) from about 2 percent to about 15 percent of an amphoteric surfactant;

wherein the weight ratio of component a) to component b) is about 3:1 to about 20:1 and wherein the composition is mild to the skin and/or eyes and is substantially free of ocular sting.

15. The composition of claim 14, wherein the hydrophobically modified, crosslinked, anionic acrylic copolymer is a carbomer available under the tradename, "Carbopol Aqua SF-1."

16. The composition of claim 14, wherein the weight ratio of the anionic surfactant: amphoteric surfactant is from about 1:1 to about 1:2.

5 17. A method of reducing ocular sting in a detergent composition comprised of, based upon the total weight of the composition, from about 4 percent to about 8.5 percent of an anionic surfactant and from about 1 percent to about 30 percent of an amphoteric surfactant, said method comprised of:

10 adding a hydrophobically modified, crosslinked anionic acrylic copolymer thereto in an amount, based upon the total weight of the composition, from greater than about 0.1 percent to about 3 percent, under conditions sufficient, wherein the weight ratio of anionic surfactant to hydrophobically modified, crosslinked anionic acrylic copolymer is about 3:1 to about 40:1 and the weight ratio of anionic surfactant to amphoteric surfactant is about
15 1:0.8 to about 1:4.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the hydrophobically modified, crosslinked, anionic acrylic copolymer is comprised of at least one acidic monomer and at least one hydrophobic ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

20 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one acidic monomer is an ethylenically unsaturated acid monomer capable of neutralization with a base, and the at least one hydrophobic ethylenically unsaturated monomer is comprised of a hydrophobic carbon chain having at least three carbon atoms.

25 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the hydrophobically modified, crosslinked anionic acrylic copolymer is an acrylates copolymer available under the tradename, "Carbopol Aqua SF-1."